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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 1791

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNUM, AR
SUBJECT: WEINSTEIN DISAPPEARANCE

1. BUENOS AIRES HERALD TODAY 3/10 FRONTPAGED STORY OF THE KIDNAPPING OF BEATRIZ ROSALIA IPARRAGUIRRE DE WEINSTEIN, AN INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN SPECIALIST IN BLOOD DISEASES WHO WAS TAKEN FROM HER HOME AROUND THREE AM ON WEDNESDAY BY PERSONS CLAIMING TO BE POLICE. ACCORDING TO THE FAMILY, FOUR ARMED MEN CARRYING MACHINE GUNS AND PISTOLS WERE IN PROCESS OF BREAKING DOWN THE DOOR OF THE WEINSTEIN APARTMENT WHEN ONE OF THE COUPLE'S DAUGHTERS OPENED IT TO THEM. ON ENTERING, THE MEN LOCKED MR. WEINSTEIN AND THE TWO DAUGHTERS OF THE FAMILY IN A BATHROOM, THEN PROCEEDED TO RANSACK THE APARTMENT BEFORE PUSHING DR. BEATRIZ ROSALIA WEINSTEIN INTO A RENAULT AND LEAVING. THE INTRUDERS SMASHED THE APARTMENT'S TELEPHONE, TORE UP PASSPORTS OF THE FAMILY AND HAULED AWAY ADDRESS BOOKS AND FAMILY SAVINGS OF $2,000.

2. ACCORDING TO PERSONS WHO KNOW THE FAMILY MRS. WEINSTEIN HAD AT SOME POINT VISITED CUBA, AND THUS COULD HAVE ATTRACTED ATTENTION TO HERSELF. SHE WAS BELIEVED COMPLETELY APOLITICAL
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AND DEVOTED TO HER WORK--HER RESEARCH HAD LED SEVERAL YEARS AGO

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TO DISCOVERY OF A BLOOD ABNORMALITY KNOWN AS "HEMOGLOBINA BUENOS AIRES." EMBASSY VISA RECORDS SHOW THAT DR. WEINSTEIN AND HER HUSBAND MANFREDO RECEIVED TOURIST VISAS FOR THE U.S. IN SEPTEMBER, 1975.

3. DR. CHRISTIAN ANFINSEN, IN BUENOS AIRES ON BEHALF OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS, LEARNED OF THE WEINSTEIN ABDUCTION BEFORE LEAVING ARGENTINA, AND RAISED THE MATTER WITH HIS HOSTS AT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS JUST BEFORE LEAVING FOR URUGUAY. (SEPTEL GIVES FURTHER DETAILS.)

4. EMBOFF ON SAME DAY HERALD PUBLISHED ABDUCTION STORY (FRIDAY 9/10) ASKED RANKING MEMBER OF OFFICE OF THE ARMY SECRETARY GENERAL WHETHER HE HAD HEARD OF CASE AND HE REPLIED -- APPARENTLY IN ALL HONESTY -- THAT HE HAD NOT HEARD OF THE MATTER. EMBASSY PLANS TO RAISE WEINSTEIN ABDUCTION WITH FOREIGN OFFICE WORKING GROUP ON HUMAN RIGHTS ON BEHALF OF NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AT OPENING OF BUSNIESS MONDAY.
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